

THE BLACKSONIAN

REPORTING THE NEWS AT BHS SINCE 1927.



Samantha Sampson, this issue's Student Spotlight

Student Career Spotlight

Samantha Sampson

Baylee Walker

Samantha Sampson is taking the fire fighting course at I2 to prepare for a career in fire fighting. Samantha gave the following response when asked why she wanted to work in firefighting: "I fell in love with firefighting because of the rush that hearing the sirens can cause and taking the class and understanding the history of firefighting amazed me. After high school, I want to pursue becoming one." One of Sammy's classmates, Jacey Sewell, said "Samantha is an incredible friend. She is always there for you if you need someone for advice or help with an assignment. She's always been there for me when I needed someone to talk to. Sam is always cracking jokes and making you laugh, even when you've had a horrible day." Not only is she a great friend but also a great student, Mrs. Ham, one of Samantha's teachers, said "Samantha is a great asset to our Algebra 2 class. I can always depend on Samantha to volunteer to come to the board and work out problems, where many are too shy to do so. This shows that she is confident in her mathematical abilities, which can be indicative of leadership potential. I enjoy having Samantha in class."

Congratulations Color Guard!!!



The Color Guard performing at the state competition

Isabelle Cole

It would seem that our BHS Color Guard is the team to beat this year. Our color guard this year consists of: Hayden Wright, Cindy Early, Maddy Satterwhite, Ivonne Razo, Sierra Margarita, Ryan Wolford, Anna LaFrancis, and Isabella Chapman Miller.

BHS Color Guard has had an amazing season, both this past fall and this winter/spring season. Every performance is one in which they give their all and bring it to the stage to win! We are so proud of all of their accomplishments. Their most recent award places them as the SC State Champions in SAAA! We here at Blacksburg High are thankful for an amazing show, a fabulous director, and awesome student performers. Blacksburg High School is beyond proud that these young women and their leaders are who represent our school!



This is the entrance into the elegant ballroom the day of the boys' club dance

Boys Club Dance

Mason Lydia

Beta Eta Sigma, the Blacksburg Boys Club, had their annual semi-formal, "The Magnolia Ball" on Saturday, March 11th, from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. The tradition began the first year the Boys Club was started here at BHS.

Like years past, the dance was held at the high school where members of the club worked hard to transform the cafeteria into an elegant ballroom on Friday night. Yards of tulle in the club's colors of cadet blue and garnet, silver candelabras, and white candles with urns of magnolia made up the decorations. The tables were lain with white linen clothes and cadet blue overlays. An arbor covered in magnolias and twinkling lights graced the doorway.

The boys created a feeling of elegance and romance for their dates. A buffet of heavy hors d'oeuvres was spread. "The meatballs were my favorite," said J.D. Parker. R.J. Gardner stated, "I had 36 cups of punch." The boys cleaned up nicely. There were roughly forty people at the ball and to coin a phrase, "a good time was had by all!"



Some of the students who attended the boys' club dance

News and Events

J.D. Bonner

Baylee Walker

J.D. Bonner, freshman, won a 42-inch Roku television from a raffle I2 sponsored. BHS assistant principal Will Coggins explained how the raffle worked. He said, "I2 roadshow had a little card to fill out by 6 different I2 classes and get the teacher to sign it to be put in the raffle." Students had to list their top 3 programs at I2 as well. The drawing was done at random and was meant to expose more students to the variety of classes offered at I2. Congratulations J.D.!



JD Bonner being presented his tv by Dr. David Smith.

Saint Patrick's Day

Chloe Sweat

The 17th of March is recognized as St. Patrick's Day each year. This day has been a religious holiday in Ireland for more than a millennium. Irish families customarily attend church in the morning on St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent. Festivities typically include céilithe, wearing green clothing or shamrocks, and participating in parades and festivals open to the public. In order to commemorate the life of St. Patrick, a priest who introduced Christianity to Ireland in 432 CE, Saint Patrick's Day was first observed as a holiday. Nowadays, it's become a globe-spanning celebration of Ireland, its people, and its culture. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in Boston in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762. Chicago has dyed its river green since 1962 to mark the holiday.

Academics

Writers Gala

Isabelle Cole

Children have a fantastic opportunity to earn a position on the Cherokee County Literacy Council by participating in the Writers Gala. It highlights young writers' works in Blacksburg High School. Cherokee County seeks to showcase and celebrate the quality writing of students in its county. The chosen winners will be submitted for district judging, featured at the Cherokee County Young Writers Gala, and published in the annual anthology.

HOSA Club Trip

Christopher Davis

The HOSA club went to Charleston to compete from March 15 through March 17. Our Blacksburg HOSA club had 28 people registered to compete. Competitors participated in a variety of events, including a public service message (PSA), cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) event, a mental health promotion event, and a persuasive writing competition for healthcare careers. The HOSA club put in the work even when nobody is around, for they have been preparing for this event for months. Any members who place in the top three will qualify for internationals in Texas. Internationals will be held in the third week of June. HOSA members will be expected to dress in business clothing for these events because they have business conferences. These events and conferences provide a great networking opportunity, prepare students for their healthcare careers, and prepare them for college life.



Mr. Sparks, this week's teacher spotlight, and his wife

Water Conservation

Mason Lydia

Watersheds and "One Water" will be the focus of the 68th Stewardship Week, which will be celebrated in April and May by the NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts). What is a watershed, exactly? A watershed is an area of land that collects and directs rainfall and snowmelt into nearby creeks, streams, and rivers. They eventually flow into outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean. Every drop of water in those interconnected bodies of water is one water. Watersheds can be any size and typically contain a few ridges, hills, or other high points of land. Whether it snows, sleet, or rains, the precipitation moves from the higher ends to the lower ones. Until it reaches a body of water, gravity forces the water to go downward. The water usually drains into rivers or streams if the terrain in the watershed is steep. If the ground in the watershed is flatter, it will slowly soak into the soil or flow into lakes or ponds.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Tierra Hughes

Have you ever wondered where a teacher attended school or about their life outside of teaching? Well, we spoke to Mr. Sparks and asked about his life. Here are the results...

How long have you been teaching? 3 years

Where did you go to college? "I started at Southern Wesleyan and finished at USC Upstate."

Why did you become a teacher? "I have always loved working with kids. I have also wanted to have a positive impact on kids from every walk of life."

Are you married? "Yes. I will be married for 2 years in April."

Do you have any kids? "No. I do not have any kids"

What job did you have before this? "I did not have an official job before teaching, but before coming to Blacksburg High School I spent two years teaching at Ewing Middle School."

Where did you grow up? "I grew up in Boiling Springs, SC."

What were your favorite subjects in school? History

News And Events

Alex Murdaugh

Mason Lydia

The case that engulfed South Carolina involved the murder of an attorney's wife and son. Maggie and Paul Murdaugh were discovered dead at the family lodge from multiple gunshot wounds. Police discovered the crime after a warrant was issued for a person nearby the crime scene for unrelated reasons. No one could have imagined that one piece of paper could reveal the true facts and the murderer.

On the evening of June 7, 2021, Alex Murdaugh, a lawyer in Colleton County, South Carolina, arrived home to discover his wife Maggie, and son Paul dead inside the family lodge. He immediately called 911, and the police were at the scene within minutes. Alex had told officers earlier that day, he was out with his mother and returned at 10:00 pm to find the bodies. Now officers found nothing 'off' with his story but kept him a person of interest.

Alex made a statement claiming he will leave his family's legal firm later that day after being injured in a roadside shooting later that evening. However, a statement issued by the firm later that day claimed that Alex had stolen company assets. A man came forward a week following that statement and said that Alex had hired him to shoot him on the day of that roadside incident; he was then arrested on several charges.

Following that, Alex was detained for insurance fraud, but many other accusations would soon follow, keeping him behind bars until a grand jury formally accused him of further counts related to the deaths of his wife and kid. This accusation comes from a cell phone video that contradicts Alex's alibi, and Alex pleads not guilty to the charges for the deaths.

On January 23, 2023, the trial officially began, and South Carolina as a whole was watching. During the trial, an unseen phone video showed three voices playing: Alex, Maggie, and Paul. The tragic incident occurred minutes before the filming, which contradicted Alex's alibi. On the witness stand, Alex says that his addiction and the rapid paranoia it produced forced him to lie to police authorities. Prosecutors argue that this new story is only to make sense of the phone audio and is not the truth.

After three hours of deliberation on Mar 2, 2023, Alex was found guilty of all charges and sentenced to life without parole. Murdaugh continues to argue his innocence while his lawyers are trying to get an appeal.

SPORTS

SOFTBALL FIRST HOME GAME

Lacey Shelton

Here at Blacksburg High School, our Lady Wildcats played their first home opener against Northwestern Trojans Varsity Softball on Monday, March 6. Sadly, our Lady Cats suffered a crushing 2-13 defeat.

That same week, our JV Lady Wildcats slammed Chesnee on Wednesday, March 8. The entire game was pitched by sophomore Lucy Thayer, who helped the Lady Wildcats win 6-3. When asked what the energy was like during the game, freshman Bailey Parris and Baylee Walker noted "the bats were on fire," and they "had a terrific play at third but overall the team had solid plays on the field."



The athlete student spotlight Addison Oglesby

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Konstantin Foster

The athlete we have chosen for this week's athlete spotlight is Addison Oglesby. She is a Junior at Blacksburg High School. Addison Oglesby is a utility player because she plays multiple sports, basketball and track. In basketball, she plays the 4 and 5 down lows at the post. She competes in shot put in track, which involves "putting" a large spherical object, the shot, as far as possible. She's been participating in these sports for four years. She comments that her teams are very close and supportive of each other. Her basketball teammate Danica Henderson says, "she's a hard worker and a good teammate. Addison always puts teammates before herself and shows that she is coachable and reliable."

Addison's first two track meets were on March 8th and March 9th. We asked her why she started playing sports, and she said, "My dad wanted me to play." Addison said that her biggest inspiration is her dad. When we asked her what her favorite moments in sports were, she replied, "spending time with the team." Finally, we asked about her future plans, and she stated that she plans to attend UNC and will not participate in sports in college.



The pitcher for JV Lady Wildcats, Lucy Thayer



LIFE STYLES

Spring Break

Jansen Ham

Spring is in the air! This means that Spring Break is quickly approaching. This year's spring break will take place from April 3rd to April 7th, 2023. As some people are going all around for vacation, some of us may be staying local.

If you are looking for things to do locally, here are some things to fill up your break in Spartanburg, SC. This weather is a great time to visit local parks or have a picnic at Milliken Park. Also, all around Spartanburg are lightbulbs. This means that you could do the Art Bulb Scavenger Hunt. For the artist, you could go to a pottery class at Hearts of Clay. For people who love something a little more fast-paced, you could visit Speed Factory Indoor Karting. Whatever your interest may be, hopefully you'll be able to find something over spring break.



Milliken Park



One of the bulbs that can be found in Spartanburg

Dr. Maynard

Dr. Maynard O'Mazing's advice, philosophy, and words of wisdom.

Dear Dr. O,

I'm burnt out at school. What should I do to get more motivation?

-Lost In Life

Dear Lost in life,

I myself have been burnt out by school and the way I get out of this mindset is thinking about my future. Thinking this way gives me motivation to put all of my effort into school.

Dear Dr. O,

How should I ask someone to prom?

-Just Wondering

Dear Just Wondering,

If I were to ask someone to prom, I would buy them flowers and a gift with a sign asking if they would like to go to prom with me. If I were to get rejected I would keep a great attitude and still be kind to them.

Where Are They Going For Spring Break?

Trevor Moore

Izzy Cole is going to Ocean Lakes.

Jordan Evans is going to Myrtle Beach.

Dylan Stockwell is going on a cruise.

Lane Barnett is going to Florida.

Mason Lydia is going to Myrtle Beach.

Emmie Walker is going to Ocean Lakes.

Carmine Brown is going to Ocean Lakes.

Gracie Moss is going to Ocean Lakes.

Doug Blackburn is going to his backyard.

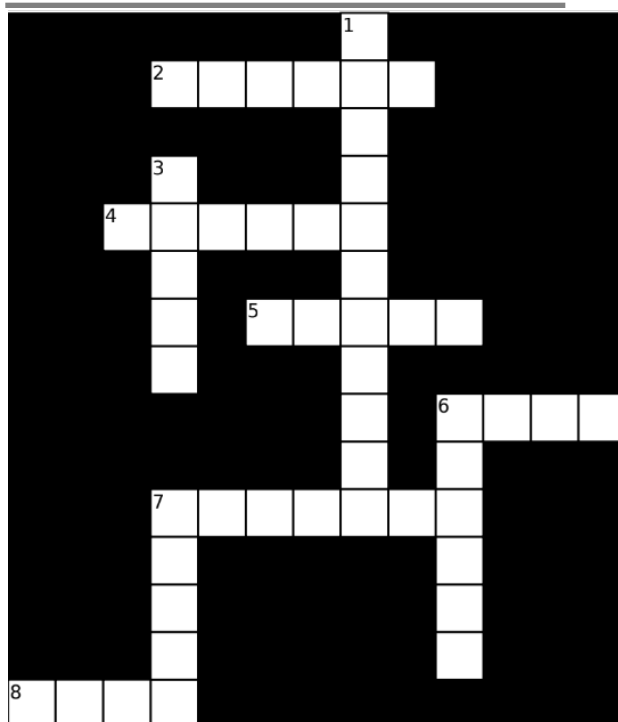
Maynard Phillips is staying home.

Jansen Ham is going to Universal.

Cortlyn Phenicie is going to Universal.

Katelyn Barnett is going to be working.

Spring Break



ACROSS

2. Something many people do
4. Happens after a rainstorm
5. Place where some people go for Spring Break
6. The Easter Bunny leaves....
7. They are blooming
8. Insect that pollinates flowers

DOWN

1. The ____ gets warmer
3. Associated with Easter
6. Holiday that takes place over spring break
7. April ____ Day



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Mr. Scruggs

Editorial & Staff

Celebrating Women's History Month

March 1st marked the beginning of Women's History Month. When we look to celebrate this month, our attention normally turns towards the 19th and 20th centuries and the suffering of women that these times brought. During these times, women fought for equality. One of the most memorable fights would be of women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, and Susan B. Anthony fighting for women to have the right to vote, just as their male counterparts did. Other fights for equality include the fight for equal hiring practices, fair wages, and fair treatment, both in the workplace and at home.

When we speak about Women's History Month, we think of strong-willed women rallying for equality and finding success. Although women in history made great strides in the fight for equality, there are still areas in today's society where the load is unbalanced. Here at *The Blacksonian*, we challenge everyone to dig beyond the popular narratives surrounding this topic. We must remember the suffrage that past women have faced. We must uplift the women who are still fighting for more equality in the world we live in today. Don't think that this mindset is just a one month thing. We should carry these principles through every second of every day until equality is at its very height.

The Blacksonian is the student-written, edited, and published newspaper of Blacksburg High School in Blacksburg, SC. For information concerning the publication please contact Mr. Blackburn or one of the editors.



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